

assistance for these starving refugees who are coming out of Afghanistan.

I ask the Senator from Nevada, am I correct that is what we are looking for, another eight or nine Senators to come forward on the Republican side?

Mr. REID. I answer my friend, the distinguished Senator from Illinois, by saying it would be patriotic, in my view, to have a few people break away over there, step forward and say, I think this has gone on long enough. A 3-week filibuster is pretty good in holding up legislation for a period of time.

I think if we had nine Senators step forward, we would be able to break the filibuster and move forward on these appropriations bills. And then, as the Senator from Minnesota said, maybe this bowl of jello that says how many judges the American people are entitled to can work out somewhat.

I want everyone to be reminded that Senator LEAHY is a veteran legislator. On September 11, Senator LEAHY was forced into a new direction. He had to tell the members of his committee, such as the Senator from Illinois, that we had to do different things. As a result of that, he, as the leader of that committee, worked day and night for weeks to come up with a counterterrorism bill. It is not as if he has not had anything else to do. And then, I repeat, we have had the anthrax problem.

Again, he does not even know if some of the judges have responded to some of the questions sent to them. He is not doing anything that unique or different. He may be asking some questions a little differently, but from the beginning of time in the Senate, when we have confirmed Federal judges, people on the Judiciary Committee have had the right to ask questions. I am not on the Judiciary Committee, but I can send a question to you, and you can ask a question that is entirely appropriate. Or when a judge is placed on the calendar—like I made an announcement earlier today on behalf of Senator DASCHLE. I said, we cannot hotline everybody as we normally do, but we have nominations on the Executive Calendar, and we are going to try to clear a lot of them. So if anybody has any objection to these people, such as John Marburger, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, let us know. If you have a problem with CPT Duncan Smith, let us know. If you have a problem with Eugene Scalia, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor, let us know. There is a whole list.

We have a lot of U.S. attorneys who have been cleared. We have a couple people on the Executive Calendar from Nevada, such as Jay Bybee, to be an assistant attorney general, a very fine man. Anyway, we have a lot of people. We have a nominee to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada.

Mr. DURBIN. May I ask the Senator from Nevada a question?

Mr. REID. I am just amazed at this kind of loosely knit problem we have

where they say we are not moving fast enough. The Senator from Minnesota asked, what is "fast enough"?

Mr. DURBIN. I might ask the Senator this.

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield for a question.

Mr. DURBIN. If the Senator would respond, this foreign operations appropriations bill, which the President has requested, which the Democrats are prepared to bring to the floor to help the President in this effort against terrorism, stopped by the Republicans again this morning, with the exception of Senator STEVENS—and I applaud him; he has always been a man who has charted his own course. He broke ranks with the Republicans and said: Enough is enough. I salute him for that.

This bill, which the Senator from Nevada appreciates, I am sure, as I and other Members do, is a life-and-death bill for a lot of people around the world. The Senator from Nevada earlier mentioned the AIDS victims in Africa where 25 million people are infected and there are 15 million AIDS orphans. There is money in this bill to help these children and to help these families try to cope with this health crisis. There is no doubt in my mind, the failure to send the money is going to lead to the loss of life.

When it comes to feeding programs for the Afghan refugees, there is \$255 million. The failure of the United States to send the money President Bush has asked for to help these Afghan refugees will take lives. People will die because we do not move as fast as we should.

Does the Senator from Nevada have a suggestion from the Republican side that if we give them a certain number of judges, then they will be willing to give a certain amount of money to send to people who are starving to death around the world? Are they negotiating in those terms as to how many judges they will need before they can support their own President's foreign operations appropriations bill?

Mr. REID. If I could just take a minute to answer the Senator's question, this negotiating has been a little bizarre, for lack of a better description. I personally negotiated with a number of Senators on the other side. Finally, the majority leader said: You keep coming to me with different people negotiating for judges. Who is speaking for the minority as to the number of judges? I think that was a pretty good question Senator DASCHLE came up with.

Then I was told I could negotiate with my counterpart, the minority whip, Senator NICKLES. So we met on a couple occasions, and I thought we had a good understanding of what they wanted and what we could do. But that all fell apart because other people now are speaking for the other side.

So the direction I had to work with Senator NICKLES is no longer the case. I do not know what they want. That is why I think there may be some other

agenda. I think it may be more than just judges, although maybe they are holding up all this important legislation for judges.

Before the Senator asks another question, let me also say this: The Senator is a veteran legislator, having come to be elected in 1982. You know how this institution works. And you have served in the Senate for a number of years. You can remember the trouble we had getting Ambassadors when they were in the majority. They would load them up and finally we would have them. It was hard to get Ambassadors.

There has not been a peep out of them for Ambassadors. Why? Because we have been approving Ambassadors every time. Senator BIDEN gets these people out just as quickly as possible. We do not want a single post to be vacant, like they were vacant under President Clinton because they would not even give some of these people hearings.

So we are doing what is right for the country. We are not holding up Ambassadors, as they did to us. We are not holding up judges, as they did to us. We are treating them as they did not treat us. That is the right thing to do.

I would be happy to respond to another question from my friend from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I say to the Senator from Nevada, based on what he just told me—that the Republicans have not even come forward with a request, a negotiated plan on these judges—I have to agree with the Senator from Nevada; I do not understand what their agenda is.

I can tell you what the result will be. Because they refused to bring President Bush's bill up to fund the State Department and other critical agencies, they are taking away from their President part of the authority he is asking for Congress to give him to wage this war successfully, part of which obviously has to do with military expenditures, intelligence expenditures. Another has to do with building a global coalition.

What the Republicans have said is: Mr. President, we are not going to stand with you. You can wait for an indeterminate amount of time for an indeterminate reason before we will give you our support.

The Democrats in the Senate are standing with the President. The Republicans in the Senate have shunned him, turned their backs on him. The net result of this, as we delay, is clearly going to be the loss of life. It clearly means that refugee children and others around the world who are waiting for U.S. assistance will not receive it in a timely fashion because of the Republican agenda on the Senate floor. That is certainly unfair to the President. It is certainly inhumane when it comes to these poor children and others around the world.

I sincerely hope that a number of Republican Senators, at the luncheon they are about to have, will stand up